

INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 26 November 1978

SUBJECT Opposition of the Mufti of Lebanon to
Moslem Agitation against UNESCO Conference

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. During the last week of October, Muhammad Tawfiq Khalid, the Mufti of Lebanon, met with a number of Moslem Ulama, including Sheikh Ahmad 'Ajuz; Sheikh Munir Muqdim, the Shara' judge; and Yusuf Faqih. Also present were other Moslem notables, including Muhammad Ali Bayhum; Dr. Abu Khayr Nuwayri; Anis Naja; Sheikh Sa'd-al-din 'Alami, who is the Shara' judge in Nazareth; Mahmud Dajani; and Sheikh Muhammad 'Abbushi. The Ulama and the Moslem notables discussed the UNESCO conference with the Mufti, and voiced their disapproval at the meeting being held in Lebanon, as they felt that UNESCO served the Zionist cause, since a large number of the conference members were pro-Zionist, they stated.
2. The Mufti ended the heated discussion by stating that UNESCO had nothing to do with politics, but was a cultural, literary, and scientific organization, and that holding the conference in Lebanon would benefit that country from every standpoint. The Mufti stated that any action taken against the UNESCO conference would threaten national unity, and he would, therefore, oppose any such action.
3. After the close of the meeting, the Mufti accused those who had been present of intriguing against Lebanon, impelled by conscienceless people and by leaders of the All-Palestine Government.

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